

Baker silences the groaners

TUES. 23/10/73

Hendon 2
Wycombe Wanderers 1
(attendance: 1,012).

JOHNNY BAKER silenced the small section of groaners in Hendon's biggest crowd of the season in the most effective way at Claremont Road on Tuesday night — by shooting the winning goal against much fancied Wycombe Wanderers. The decisive shot came in the 81st minute, when some disenchanted fans packed behind the Wycombe goal were chanting "we want Connell."

If Hendon manager Jimmy Quail had decided to introduce substitute Roger Connell it would undoubtedly have been at the expense of Baker — as against Bromley on Saturday. But Connell was given an extended rest and it was cheers all the way to the final whistle as Hendon swept aside one of their biggest obstacles as they pursue their second successive Isthmian championship.

Baker hit the spotlight only a few seconds after referee Mr P. Taylor had turned down Wycombe's appeals for a penalty, when their international skipper Larry Pritchard had been sent tumbling in the area.

Deliberated

Deputising for John Swannell, who had damaged a

groin training with England on Sunday, Arthur Paisley deliberated with a goal kick before finding Johnny Baker just over the half-way line.

Working a quick one-two with Bobby Childs, Baker let fly from well outside the area to beat goalkeeper John Maskell.

by Fred Harris

But the best of the three goals scored was conjured up by Bobby Childs, who had heard just before the game that he had been called up by Hertfordshire for their representative match with Birmingham City FA at Nuneaton on Sunday, November 11.

Taking a classic pass from Derek Baker in the 42nd minute, Childs cleverly sent defender Phil Wood the wrong way before blasting a tremendous shot past Maskell.

The goal highlighted a tremendous first-half display by Hendon, whose brilliant touch-football had Wycombe in a daze. It was marred only by Keiran Somers miss-of-the-match when he side-footed wide of an open goal in the 16th minute.

Wobbled

Hendon wobbled for a while in the second half when the defence was upset by an injury to Alan Phillips, who was limping for most of this period. After a peerless performance, Phillips twisted his left knee just before

the interval and must be considered doubtful for the game against his old club Tooting at Claremont Road tomorrow (Saturday).

With Phillips now suspect, Keith Searle, who had a brief spell with Hendon last term, looked more conspicuous.

Leading scorer Tony Horseman raised Wycombe's hopes of avenging last season's double against them when he scored in the 68th minute. Ironically it followed some intensive defensive play by Childs, who had dropped back to rob Derek Gamblin. But his clearance was intercepted by Wood, who swept the ball into the middle for Horseman to breast down in his stride and net his 11th goal of the season.

Made amends

Johnny Baker should have scored soon after when put clear by Phil Fry, only to shoot straight at Maskell. But he made amends later.

Though complimenting Hendon on their victory, Wycombe boss Brian Lee did not think that they were the best league side he had met so far this season. That honour he reserved for Walton — but that was when they had Somers and Connell, so the balance of power must have swayed in Hendon's direction!

It is expected that Swannell will be fit to play against Tooting tomorrow, and before the kick-off he will be presented with a memento to commemorate his 500th appearance for the club.

Hendon: A. Paisley, A. Jennings, G. Hand, P. Deadman, A. Phillips, R. Haider, D. Baker, R. Childs, J. Baker, K. Somers, P. Fry. Substitute: R. Connell.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell, D. Gamblin, R. Grant (withdrawn), P. Wood, D. Bullock, R. Williams, A. Horseman, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, M. Holifield, S. Perriñ. Substitute: P. Birdseye.